

Good afternoon. Thank you for including me today in this transfer launch event. I'm Emily Conder, a recent transfer student at the University of Kentucky as of the first summer session this year. I am very thankful to say that I started my higher education at Bluegrass Community & Technical College. Today, I am going to share with you my transfer experience as well as give my input about the new website available for students to better plan their transfer process.

Many ask why I started my higher education at a community college. While there are several reasons for this which I will share, my story goes back to my senior year of high school, when my higher education actually began. As a student of Lexington Christian Academy, where I attended K-12, an AP Spanish was not available my senior year due to not enough interest from students. Having a passion for learning and speaking Spanish and knowing that I wanted to eventually earn a degree in Spanish, I knew that I needed to keep the language fresh on my mind by continuing in class with it. Because of this I decided to enroll at BCTC, taking a Spanish course in the evenings to keep up with the language.

Being on the Cooper campus in Lexington opened my eyes to all the advantages of a community college, including smaller classroom sizes making it easier to get one-on-one help from professors, as well as closer proximity between classrooms. The lower costs were of course another benefit. You see, I attended a private Christian school my whole life, however this was only an option due to the blessing of a huge tuition cut for me and my siblings due to my mother's teaching job there. I say this to explain that although I attended a private school, my parents did not have the money to support me going to a four year university without student loans on my part. My older brother and sister attended a private Christian college after high school and still carry with them large amounts of student loans. Looking at them and the debt they've accumulated from school, I knew I wanted to get my start with higher education, coming out with little to no student loans. Another aspect of community colleges that intrigued me was the opportunities of transfer scholarships available to four year universities after completion of an Associate of Arts or Science. Knowing that I could start my higher education at a nice facility with small classroom sizes, at a cheaper cost and great opportunities of transfer scholarships, it was an obvious conclusion that starting out at BCTC was the right path for me.

The spring of my freshman year, I decided that I wanted to go into a career in speech language pathology after shadowing a speech therapist. Still having a passion for Spanish, my new goal was to earn a degree from the University of Kentucky in both Communication Disorders and Spanish as well. My transfer advisors were a huge help in this transfer process. I met with Ray Archer, a UK transfer advisor for BCTC students at the time my freshman year and he helped get me get enrolled in the BCTC blue+ program, where students can take two classes for two semesters at the University of Kentucky at BCTC tuition rate. This was a huge step in my transfer process to be able to take classes for my majors at UK that BCTC did not offer. My sophomore year, I met several times with Nicole Glenos, the new and current UK transfer advisor at BCTC. She guided me as well with which classes to take through the BCTC blue+

program my final semester as well as with the application process of my program in Communication Disorders and the general application process into the University of Kentucky.

Although I had a pretty much seamless transfer process with much inquiry on my part and the help of my advisors, after taking a look at the new knowhow2transfer website, I believe that it would have been extremely helpful for me and will be a crucial tool for transfer students in the future. For community college students who are actively pursuing a degree upon transfer at a four year college in the state, this website is gold. The ability to track how courses transfer from the community college to a university of their selection will be extremely helpful for students knowing for sure if what they are enrolled in will transfer as the same credit. The option to track how a KCTCS degree would apply toward a bachelor's degree at a four year college is another fantastic feature of this site which is sure to guide students in knowing how their courses at KCTCS will contribute to the core requirements of the university or the prerequisites of their college.

I wish the best of luck to the KCTCS students who desire to take their education to the next level and am excited for the opportunities that future KCTCS students will have through this website and know that this site will guide them effectively.

Thank you